exercise the right of superintendence in the case of a few Samudayams such as Haripad and Ambalapuzha. Such a step would induce the other Samudayams to put their houses in order in time to escape the clutches of law. He also requested that a list of all the Samoohams in the State with information as to the wealth of each body should be called for and that uniform accounts should be prescribed for their observance. Such accounts should be checked under Section 4 of the Regulation. The above safeguards would, the Member observed, minimise the chances of mismanagement.

Dewan's reply.—The Member's remarks will be referred to the Additional Head Sirkar Vakil for opinion.

156. The establishment of institutions for feeding poor school-children during noon-day interval.

Mr. S. Harihara Iyer B. A. (Member, T. I. C., Attungal) referred to the representation made at the last session of the Assembly on the subject and said that the health of the school-children was so paramount a concern that the subject demanded the serious attention of the Government and the people. Many boys and girls had no food in the noon and that was due in some cases to the midday interval being too short, in other cases to the want of a satisfactory agency to provide food near the school, and in a few others to want of convenience or poverty. The total strength of the Higher Grade Elementary Schools in the State was 53,215 children of whom as many as 21,828 of the boys and girls were without food at noon. That was indeed regrettable and required serious consideration. The children of the Higher Grade Elementary School at West Kallada were being provided with food in the noon by a few philanthropic men of the place. The cost of the food per child per day there was one chuckram. On that basis, out of 28,000 pupils (roughly) who were without food at noon in the whole State, only three-eighths of the number would have to be fed *gratis* at one chuckram per head; and the cost would be Rs. 61,875 per year of 10 working months. To carry out the scheme of supplying food at noon to the children, the co-operation of the Government with the efforts of the people was quite essential. The Member therefore submitted the following proposals for the kind acceptance of the Government:—

(1) The midday interval of one hour in Elementary Schools should be extended to an hour and a half.

(2) Tiffin sheds should be put up in the premises of all schools.

(3) The Inspecting Officers of the Department should be instructed to make suitable arrangements through the agency of the people to give food to such of the school-children as could not go home for food or bring food with them to school in the morning, receiving payment from such as were able to pay.

(4) A contribution in aid of such feeding funds, at least one-third of the total cost, should be promised by the Government subject to such conditions and rules as might be laid down by them for the purpose. The expenditure on account of the above contribution should be met from the savings obtained by the retrenchment or closing of the Oottupurahs and other charitable institutions.

Dewan's reply.—The Member's remarks will be referred to the Director of Public Instruction for report.

157. The present condition of the Hindu Pulayas in the State.

Mr. P. K. Govinda Pillai (Member, Nominated) said that the Pulayas of the State numbered more than two hundred thousands and were scattered all over the country. The one outstanding feature of the community was its ready susceptibility to the proselytising influences of the Christian Mission agencies working ardently in the State. The Pulayas were Hindus by tradition, custom and temperament, and rapid conversion of those Pulayas into the Christian faith was a phenomenon not compatible with the conservatism and pertinacity of the Hindu. The Member did not believe that the cause of such conversions was traceable to any inherent defect in the Hindu religion. But it was entirely due to the unsympathetic attitude of the Hindu polity to the Pulayas who undoubtedly constituted an integral factor of that polity.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly